

***“Called According To His Purpose!”***  
***Esther 7:1-6***

**Introduction:**

1. After Such A Great Easter Celebration Last Sunday:
  - I Would Like For Us To Get Back Into:
    - Our Series Through The Old Testament Book Of Esther This Morning:
      - So Please Turn There In Your Bibles With Me!
    - To Esther Chapter 7:
      - Where - After A Long Intermission - King Ahasuerus & Haman Are Finally On Their Way:
        - To Queen Esther’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Banquet!
2. But A Lot Has Happened:
  - Since The 1<sup>st</sup> Banquet - That’s For Sure!
    - Because Even While Esther:
      - Was Making All The Necessary Preparations For This Second Banquet:
  - God Himself:
    - Was Making His Own Preparations:
      - For The Ultimate Success Of Queen Esther’s Work & His Own Perfect Will!
  - **IE:** And Like The Artillery Shells From An Advancing Army:
    - God Was Softening Up His Targets:
      - To Further His Plan To Deliver His People:
        - From The Hand’s Of Their Enemy!
    - He First Started On Haman:
      - Who Was Tripped Up In His Own Arrogance:
        - And Pride! (End Of Chapter 5)
    - He Then Softened Up The King:
      - With A Sleepless Night:
        - And A Forgotten Kindness! (Chapter 6)
    - Then The Lord:
      - Brought The King & Haman & Mordecai All Together:
        - In An Ironic Twist To Prove Who Really Was & Always Is In Charge!
3. But All The While:
  - Queen Esther, It Seems, Is Growing In Her Understanding:
    - Of Her Adoptive Father’s Words To Her:
      - 4:14 - “Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
  - This Was Now - Without A Doubt:
    - God’s Time For Her:
      - To Do What She Had Been Called To Do!
      - To Serve Her People & To Serve Her God!
  - And So - In Chapter 7:1-6 - We Finally Read:
    - Of Esther’s Service - “So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. / 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. / 3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: / 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king’s damage. / 5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? / 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen!”
4. Like Queen Esther:
  - Every Christian:
    - Has A Special Call & A Special Service:
      - Even In God’s Sovereign Work In This World!
        - If You Are A Child Of God Through Faith In Jesus Christ - You Have Been Called Into The Service Of The King Of Heaven! And This Call Is A Great Privilege!
    - **IE:** Even Greater Than The Privilege When A Person Is Called Into The Service Of The President! At The Beginning Of A New President’s Term - A Selection Process For A New Cabinet - Only A Few Are

- Chosen - But Most Of The Time - When Asked To Serve - They Do! They Stop Whatever It Is They Are Doing At The Time - Congressman / Senator / CEO - To Serve At The Pleasure Of The President!
- If You Are A Christian:
  - It Is - Without A Doubt - God's Time For **You**:
    - To Do What You Have Been Called To Do!
    - You Too Have Been Placed Here - "For Such A Time As This!"
- You Have Been "Called According To – And For – His Purpose!"
  - And This Morning - I Would Like For Us To See:
    - What This Call Entails!

\* First - As A Christian - You Have Been Given:

**1. A Call To Prepare In The Work Of The Lord!**

- See This In 7:1 - "So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen!"
  - For A Night & A Day - Queen Esther:
    - Was Preparing For This 2<sup>nd</sup> Banquet!
      - Not Just The Food & The Wine - But Also Just How To Bring The Plight Of Her People Before The King!
  - If You Recall - At The First Banquet:
    - For Some Reason - Esther Was Not Quite Ready To Share Her Burden With The King!
      - I Personally Believe It Was Because She Was Overwhelmed With Gratitude Toward The King & His Mercy Toward Her!
      - But She Knew That At This 2<sup>nd</sup> Banquet - It Had To Be The Time & Place For Her To Act!
- Now - In The Work & Service Of The Lord:
  - Like Esther - We Too Often Don't Know:
    - When & How God Will Accomplish His Work!
    - But We Do Know That He Will!
  - But The Lord Also Graciously Gives:
    - A Special Opportunity To Be Actively Involved In His Work:
      - To Those Who Are Prepared!
      - Are You Prepared / Are We Prepared For The Lord To Use Us In His Work?
- But - Even When You Prepare:
  - You Need To Rest In & Rely Upon:
    - God's Own Providential Work & Preparation:
      - That Is So Often Hidden To Us!
  - Even As He Did In Esther!
    - Because - While Esther Was Preparing For The 2<sup>nd</sup> Banquet:
      - God Was Preparing The Hearts Of Both The King & Haman & Bringing Each Man Into The Temper & Mood That Was Best Suited To Accomplish His Purpose / Plan!
    - And Esther Wasn't Aware:
      - Of Any Of This!
- You Too Have Been Given A Call:
  - To Prepare In The Work Of The Lord!
    - Are You Preparing?
      - In Your Own Life?
      - To Be A Witness?
      - In Your Family / Church?
  - Are You Serving Where God Has Placed You:
    - And With The Gifts He Has Given You?
      - God Will Accomplish His Plans - With Or Without You - But He Offers To You The Great Privilege & The Great Opportunity To Be A Part Of His Plan!
      - How Can You Pass That Up?

\* Second - We See - That As A Christian - You Have Also Been Given:

**2. A Call To Prayer In The Work Of The Lord!**

- See This In 7:2-4a - "And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. / Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: / For we are sold, I and my

people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish!”

- So - At The 2<sup>nd</sup> Banquet - The King Gave Esther:
  - This Offer - For The 3<sup>rd</sup> Time!
    - I’m Sure That He Was As Curious As Ever To Find Out What Was On The Heart & Mind Of His Queen!
- And Esther Knew That It Was Time!
  - It Was Time For Her To:
    - “Open Her Mouth & Plead The Cause Of The Poor & Needy!” (Proverbs 31:8-9)
  - And So - She Brought Her “Petition & Request” To The King!
    - This Time - With No Hesitation / No Delay!
      - **IE:** And With This Act - The “Queen Became The Queen!”
  - She Spoke:
    - With Great Courage!
    - And With Great Commitment:
      - To The Lives Of Her Own People!
- She Poured Out Her Heart:
  - To The King:
    - “If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: / For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish!”
  - Esther’s Petition Was A Matter Of Life & Death!
    - Her Own Life!
      - And The Life Of All Her People!
- They Had In Fact Been Sold!
  - Sold As Scrap!
    - For 10,000 Talents Of Silver!
  - And - If The King Was Honest With Himself - He Was As Complicit In This As Was Haman!
    - They Were Partners In Crime!
      - And Esther Knew Of All This!
    - She Uses The Same Words As We Find In The Decree In 3:13!
      - A Great Burden To Her!
- Now - In The Work & Service Of The Lord:
  - Like Esther - We Too Have Many Burdens:
    - On Our Hearts!
      - But Unlike Esther - We Do Not Have To Doubt That The Lord Will Hear Our “Petitions & Requests!”
    - But How Many Times Do We Fail:
      - To “Cast All Our Care Upon Him – Knowing That – He Careth For Us!”
  - We Have So Much That We Need:
    - To Bring To The Lord!
      - And Yet - Because Of Jesus Christ - Our Great Intercessor - Who Ascended Into Heaven For Us - And Now “Ever Liveth To Make Intercession” For You:
    - You Can Go To The Lord & Pray To The Lord:
      - With Greater Courage!
      - With Greater Confidence!
      - With Greater Commitment!
        - Because You Have An Even Greater Cause!
- But - Even When You Pray:
  - You Need To Rest In & Rely Upon:
    - God’s Own Performance Of His Will!
  - You Need To Pray:
    - Even As Jesus Prayed - “Thy Will Be Done!”
      - In All Of The Matters & Affairs Of Your Life - But Knowing That:
        - “His Will *Is* Being Done!”
  - And Yet - Through Prayer:
    - You Are Entering Into:
      - The Very Performance Of His Will!
        - And That Is An Amazing Privilege!

- You Have Been Given A Call:
  - To Prayer In The Work Of The Lord!
    - Are You Praying?
      - Are You Actively / Ceaselessly Pleaing To The Lord?
  - Once Again - God Has Given His People:
    - A Great Privilege:
      - To Pray & Intercede For People!
        - Even As Esther Stood In The Gap Between The King & Her People!
  - In Fact - "Prayer Is The Best Preparation" For Anything We Do In The Work Of The Lord! (McRie)

\* We Can Also Learn - That Christians Have All Been Given - Third:

### 3. ***A Call To Patience In The Work Of The Lord!***

- In Esther's Appeal Before The King - She Continues - 7:4b - "But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage!"
  - The Meaning Of Last Part Of 7:4 Can Be Best Explained As:
    - "The Enemy's Distress - To Her People - Would Not Have Justified Bringing Damage Or Trouble To The King!"
  - So - Even If Esther & Her People:
    - Had Been Sold By Haman As **Slaves**:
      - She Would Have "Held Her Tongue" Because She Wouldn't Have Bothered The King With Such A Trivial Concern!
        - After All - Slavery In Persia Was Such A Common Thing!
      - But Even With These Words - We See In Esther:
    - Patience In Humility!
      - She Was Willing To Endure & Be Content Even In Slavery!
        - Both Personally & As A People!
          - But Even More - I Think We Also See In Esther A:
      - Patience In Hope!
    - Because - In The Work & Service Of The Lord:
      - How Could Esther Have Been So Content?
        - Because Of The Hope Of God's Promises To His People:
          - Even In Slavery & Distress!
      - You See - Back In The Book Of Deuteronomy:
        - Chapters 27-29 - God Promises His People - Blessing For Their Obedience & Curses For Their Disobedience - And Slavery & Servitude Was One Of The Curses - 28:68 - "There Shall Ye Be Sold Unto Your Enemies For Bondmen And Bondwomen, And No Man Shall Buy You!"
          - Perhaps Esther Knew Of This Curse & How She & Her People Well-Deserved This Kind Of Punishment!
        - But At Least - As Slaves - There Was Still Life:
          - And With Life - Hope - In The Promise Of God's Mercy - 30:1-3 - "And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, / 2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; / 3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee!"
      - And This Could Be Why Esther Would Have "Held Her Tongue!"
        - Because She Seems To Have Understood & Believed In God's Word & Work For His People!
          - And This Is Why We Too - In The Words Of Paul - Can Be "Fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; / Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer!" (Romans 12:11-12)
    - But - While You Are Learning To Be Patient:
      - You Need To Rest In & Rely Upon:
        - God's Own Promises To His People!
          - Isaiah 54:17 - "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD!"
- You Have Been Given The Call:

- To Patience In The Work Of The Lord!
  - Are You Patient - In The Biblical Sense?
    - Enduring Through Whatever You Face In Your Life:
      - With Humility & With Hope?
- Perhaps You Are Not Seeing Things Go:
  - The Way You Would Want Them To Go!
    - But Remember - You Can Be Patient:
      - Because - "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than your ways, and God's thoughts than your thoughts!" (Isaiah 55:9)
- So - You Can Rest & Rely Upon Him:
  - Because You Know That His Grace:
    - Is Sufficient For You! (2 Cor. 12:9)

\* But - Fourth - We Also Find:

**4. *A Call To Plainness In The Work Of The Lord!***

- 7:5-6 - "Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? / And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen!"
  - After Esther Pours Her Heart Out To Her Husband / King:
    - He Is Enraged! "Who Would Even Dare?"
      - **IE:** Imagine He Turned Redder & Redder Like A Cartoon Character!
        - The Xerxes We Know & Nobody Loves Is Back!
    - But In The Providence Of God:
      - Esther Is Provided The Opportunity To Identify The Enemy Of Her People & Her God!
        - I Think She Is Even Telling The King That Haman Is **His** Enemy As Well!
  - "The Adversary & Enemy Is This Wicked / Vile Haman!"
    - But Even With These Words - We See That:
      - Esther Understood & Could Identify The Real Problem!
  - It Wasn't Just The Man – Haman:
    - It Was His Nature – He Was "Wicked!"
      - He Was Not Just Offending God's People, He Was An Offense To God Himself!
  - And This Is What Sin Can Do:
    - To Any & Every Man!
      - "Sin Makes Men Into Monsters!"
- Now - In The Work & Service Of The Lord:
  - Like Esther - We Need To Be Able To:
    - Understand & Identify Our Greatest Problem:
      - And Man's Greatest Problem!
        - Sin!
  - And Then - We Need To Fight Against It:
    - With Everything We've Got & Been Given:
      - By The Lord!
        - Sin Within!
        - Sin Without!
- But - Even When You Plainly:
  - Understand What Your Real Enemy Is:
    - You Need To Continue To Rest In & Rely Upon:
      - Jesus Christ & His Power To Overcome Your Sin & The Man Of Sin - The Devil Himself!
        - Which He Did On The Cross!
- You & I Have Been Given The Call:
  - To Plainness In The Work Of The Lord!
    - We Need To Understand & Speak Plainly:
      - Of Our Greatest Problem & Enemy:
        - Sin!
  - And We Need to Understand:
    - What Sin Is & What Sin Does!
      - Isaiah 5:20 - "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for

- light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”
- We Must Not Confuse What Sin Is!
  - We Must Not Consent To What Sin Does!
  - And We Must Not Condone How Sin Manifests Itself!
  - See It Clearly / Plainly As God Sees It!

**Conclusion:**

1. If You Are A Child Of God:
  - Like Esther - You Have Been Given:
    - A Special Role & Responsibility:
      - In The Work Of The Lord!
  - And He Has Called You:
    - To Be Faithful!
      - Faithful In Your Preparation!
        - Using Your Gifts & Abilities To Serve The Lord Right Where He Has Placed You!
      - Faithful In Your Prayers!
        - Bring Your Burdens To The Lord! Pleaing For Your Own Needs & The Needs OF Others!
      - Faithful In Your Patience!
        - In Humility & Hope!
      - Faithful In Your Plainness!
2. Are You Striving To Be Faithful:
  - In The Work Of The Lord?
    - But Remember - Even As You Strive To Be Faithful:
      - You Must Always Rest In & Rely Upon:
        - The Faithfulness Of The Lord To You!
    - His Great Faithfulness!
      - Because - 1 Thessalonians 5:24 - “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it!”
3. Yes - Ultimately - God’s Will Will Be Done / Accomplished!
  - But - God Has Called All Of His People:
    - To Be Included In His Work & His Will!
      - And That Is A Great Privilege!
    - So - 1 Corinthians 55:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord!”
    - As We See From Esther This Morning:
      - Be Fervent & Faithful In The Work Of The Lord!

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